

Message Text

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21

ACTION EA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NEA-06 IO-03 H-01 INR-05 L-01

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R 100929Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9013

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 14515

LIMDIS

CINCPAC FOR POLAD TO PASS TO AMBASSADOR SULLIVAN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, RP

SUBJECT: VISIT OF IBRAHIM AL SULTAN

REF: MANILA 14438

1. IN FOLLOW-ON TALK DEC 10, EXEC. SEC. MELCHOR TOLD CHARGE THAT RESULTS OF VISIT IBRAHIM AL SULTAN WERE, IN EFFECT, OF SIGNIFICANT INTEREST ON ECONOMIC MATTERS BUT INCONCLUSIVE ON POLITICAL FRONT. AL SULTAN PARTY STAYED A DAY LONGER THAN PLANNED, APPARENTLY TO EXTEND OIL DISCUSSIONS WITH PHILIPPINE NATIONAL OIL COMPANY (PNOC) CHAIRMAN VELASCO. HIGH POINTS AS FOLLOWS:

A. OIL SUPPLY. SAUDIS SAID THEY EXPECTED TO HAVE COMPLETED TAKEOVER OF ARMACO BY MARCH 1975. THEY WERE INTERESTED IN DISCUSSING DOWNSTREAM PARTICIPATION WITH
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PHILIPPINES BUT IMMEDIATELY WANTED TO ASSURE CONTINUED ACCESS

TO CRUDE OIL MARKET NOW SERVICED BY CALTEX AND MOBIL. MELCHOR SAID THIS PROPOSAL INVOLVED "SHENG-LI CRUDE" PROBLEMS IN THAT MARKET WOULD HAVE TO ABSORB THESE SUPPLIES, PRESUMABLY TO BE IMPORTED UNDER PNOC AEGIS.

B. TRADE. FILIPINOS DISCUSSED MAINLY SALES OF SUGAR AND WOOD PRODUCTS. NO PRECISE ANNUAL PLANS WERE AGREED.

C. SAUDI INVESTMENT/ASSISTANCE. MAJOR PROJECT DISCUSSED WAS POSSIBLE SAUDI FINANCING OF A SUGAR CENTRAL (NOW AVERAGING IN THE \$35 MILLION RANGE), WITH EXPECTATION THAT BULK OF THIS MILL'S OUTPUT WOULD BE BOUGHT BY SAUDI ARABIA.

D. SUPPORT OF ARAB CAUSES. UNDER SOME PRESSURE FROM SAUDI VISITORS, FILIPINOS CAME DOWN ONLY IN SUPPORT OF UN OCTOBER RESOLUTION. SOME OF FILIPINO PARTICIPANTS, IT APPEARS, WERE NERVOUS ABOUT GOING THAT FAR, ALTHOUGH VELASCO SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN WILLING TO EXPLICITLY SUPPORT PLO. AT DECEMBER 6 LUNCHEON FOR AL SULTAN, MARCOS, WHO REAFFIRMED PHILIPPINES' ABIDING BELIEF IN RIGHT OF PEOPLE TO SELF-DETERMINATION, MAINTAINED THAT PHILIPPINE SUPPORT FOR UN RESOLUTION ON OCCUPIED TERRITORIES HAD NOT CONSTITUTED ALTERATION OF POLICY SINCE THESE TERRITORIES OBTAINED BY WAR AND PHILIPPINES CONSTITUTION RENOUNCES WAR AS INSTRUMENT OF NATIONAL POLICY.

2. COMMENT: ON POLITICAL ISSUES INVOLVING SOUTHER PHILIPPINES THE SAUDIS APPEAR IN FINAL ANALYSIS TO HAVE STAYED CLOSER TO LINE EARLIER PURVEYED BY AL TOHAMY THAT FILIPINOS EXPECTED AT BEGINNING OF AL SULTAN VISIT. MELCHOR, WHO HAS BEEN DEEPLY INVOLVED IN EFFORT TO MOVE TOWARD A SUMMIT, SAID THAT HIS RECOMMENDATION TO PRESIDENT WAS THAT TALK OF A SUMMIT IS PREMATURE, THAT PROPOSALS NOW BEFORE THEM ARE TOO UNFAVORABLE TO THE PHILIPPINES TO MAKE A SUMMIT PROFITABLE.
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